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Agenda item 105

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 5 December 2016

[on the report of the First Committee (A/71/457)]

71/87. Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions relating to the complete and effective prohibition of bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons and on their destruction,

Noting with satisfaction that, with the ratification and accession of two additional States,[1] there are now 175 States parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction,[2] including all the permanent members of the Security Council, and stressing at the same time that there is a continuing need to achieve its universalization,

Reaffirming its call upon all signatory States that have not yet ratified the Convention to do so without delay, and calling upon those States that have not signed the Convention to become parties thereto at the earliest possible date, thus contributing to the achievement of universal adherence to the Convention,

Bearing in mind its call upon all States parties to the Convention to participate in the implementation of the recommendations of the review conferences of the parties to the Convention, including the exchange of information and data agreed to in the Final Declaration of the Third Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, later amended by the Final Declaration of the Seventh Review Conference, and to provide such information and data in conformity with the standardized procedure to

[1] Côte d'Ivoire on 23 March 2016 (ratification) and Angola on 26 July 2016 (accession).
[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1015, No. 14860.

Please recycle

the Implementation Support Unit within the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat on an annual basis and no later than 15 April,

Welcoming the reaffirmation made in the Final Declarations of the Fourth, Sixth and Seventh Review Conferences that under all circumstances the use of bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons and their development, production and stockpiling are effectively prohibited under article I of the Convention,

Recognizing the importance of ongoing efforts by States parties to enhance international cooperation, assistance and the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for the use of bacteriological (biological) agents and toxins for peaceful purposes, recognizing also that there still remain challenges and obstacles to be overcome in order to enhance international cooperation, and recognizing further the value of building capacity through international cooperation, in line with the Final Document of the Seventh Review Conference,

Reaffirming the importance of national measures, in accordance with constitutional processes, in strengthening the implementation of the Convention by States parties, in line with the Final Document of the Seventh Review Conference,

Reaffirming also the importance of the review of developments in the field of science and technology related to the Convention,

Noting the decision of the Seventh Review Conference to retain the previous structures from the 2003–2010 intersessional process, consisting of annual meetings of States parties preceded by annual meetings of experts, and to continue to allocate five days to each meeting of States parties and each meeting of experts during the 2012–2015 intersessional process, and noting also the forthcoming conclusion of the current intersessional process,

Recalling the decision of the Seventh Review Conference that the Eighth Review Conference shall be held in Geneva not later than 2016,

Noting that States parties have established a transparent and inclusive preparatory process for the Eighth Review Conference to consider substantial and procedural issues related to the review of the Convention and its implementation,

1. *Notes with satisfaction* the successful outcome of and the decisions on all provisions of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction[2] reached at the Seventh Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention, and calls upon States parties to the Convention to participate and actively engage in their continued implementation;

2. *Notes with appreciation* the outcome of the intersessional process agreed by the Seventh Review Conference and the contributions of States parties and relevant international organizations to, as well as presentations by the scientific and academic institutions and non-governmental organizations concerning, the discussion and promotion of common understandings and effective action on the standing agenda items entitled "Cooperation and assistance, with a particular focus on strengthening cooperation and assistance under Article X", "Review of developments in the field of science and technology related to the Convention" and "Strengthening national implementation" and on the questions of (*a*) how to enable fuller participation in the confidence-building measures, and (*b*) how to strengthen implementation of article VII, including consideration of detailed procedures and

mechanisms for the provision of assistance and cooperation by States parties, discussed in 2012 and 2013 and 2014 and 2015, respectively;

3. *Appreciates* the information and data on confidence-building measures provided by States parties to date, recalls the discussions on the biennial item on confidence-building measures in 2012 and 2013 and relevant paragraphs of the reports of the meetings of States parties, and calls upon all States parties to the Convention to participate in the exchange of information and data on confidence-building measures called for in the relevant decisions of the review conferences;

4. *Notes with appreciation* the decision of the Seventh Review Conference on the establishment of a database to facilitate requests for and offers of exchange of assistance and cooperation, and urges States parties to submit to the Implementation Support Unit, on a voluntary basis, requests for and offers of cooperation and assistance, including in terms of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information regarding the use of biological and toxin agents for peaceful purposes;

5. *Encourages* States parties to provide, at least biannually, appropriate information on their implementation of article X of the Convention and to collaborate to offer assistance or training, upon request, in support of the legislative and other implementation measures of States parties needed to ensure their compliance with the Convention;

6. *Notes with satisfaction* the decision of the Seventh Review Conference on the establishment of a sponsorship programme in order to support and increase the participation of developing States parties in the meetings of the intersessional programme, welcomes the increased amount of voluntary contributions made in 2016, and calls upon States parties in a position to do so to offer voluntary contributions for the programme;

7. *Notes with appreciation* the work of the Implementation Support Unit and its contribution to supporting the intersessional process;

8. *Also notes with appreciation* the two meetings of the Preparatory Committee for the Eighth Review Conference, held in Geneva on 26 and 27 April and from 8 to 12 August 2016;

9. *Recalls* that the Eighth Review Conference is mandated to review the operation of the Convention with a view to assuring that the purposes of the preamble and the provisions of the Convention are being realized, as provided for in article XII thereof, and to consider issues identified in the review of the operation of the Convention as provided for in article XII thereof and any possible consensus follow-up action;

10. *Urges* all States parties to build upon the discussions of the Preparatory Committee and to continue to work together to achieve a consensus outcome of the Eighth Review Conference;

11. *Notes with appreciation* the events organized by some States parties, regional organizations and the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat for exchanges of views on the work of the Eighth Review Conference;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to render the necessary assistance to the depositary Governments of the Convention and to continue to provide such services as may be required for the conduct and the implementation of

the decisions and recommendations of the review conferences, while noting the importance of addressing issues arising from the outstanding dues of States parties and participating States and from financial and accounting practices recently implemented by the United Nations;

13. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-second session the item entitled "Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction".

51st plenary meeting
5 December 2016